IS THE JOURNAL TRUSTWORTHY?

It is crucial to choose a trustworthy journal for your manuscript submission. The indicators listed can provide clues as to how legitimate a journal is and help you to place it on a quality spectrum.

1

The reputation and focus of the journal:
- You and your colleagues are already familiar with this journal and its publisher.
- This journal has already been published in by renowned scientists in your field.
- Its content focus is clearly defined and consistently adhered to.
- The title of the journal is unique and cannot easily be confused with that of another journal.

2

The publisher and its website:
- Information about the editorial board is available.
- The editors can be contacted by telephone or email.
- The publisher has its own email domain.
- The publisher's homepage contains the company's current address.
- The website is written in an appropriate language for the subject area and is free of grammatical and spelling errors.
- The website is unique and does not resemble any other well-known journal's website.
- The journal's homepage contains information for authors, particularly regarding the APC (article processing charge).

3

Peer review process:
- The journal conducts a peer review.
- The specific peer review process is described.
- Realistic deadlines are set for completing the peer review process for each discipline. Very short peer review processes suggest that the review is not being carried out adequately, or at all.

IDENTIFYING PREDATORY JOURNALS

4

Networking:
- The journal has an ISSN.
- The articles in the journal have a DOI.
- It is listed in recognised databases such as Web of Science and Scopus, as well as other relevant directories such as DOAJ.
- The publisher and editors are members of recognised industry associations, such as OASPA and the Committee on Publication Ethics.

5

First Aid:
- https://thinkchecksubmit.org/ (for conferences, visit: https://thinkcheckattend.org/)
- https://doaj.org/
- https://app.cabells.com/academic
- https://www.scopus.com/search/form.uri?display=basic#basic
- https://www.webofscience.com/wos/woscc/basic-search
- https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/
- Be careful with blacklists!
- If in doubt, ask your library.